

## TWO POLICEMEN IN TRAPS.

ONE ACCUSED OF SELLING PROSTITUTION, OR PRETENDING TO.

DETROIT, Mich., June 2.—"Daily News" Reporter Held as Accomplice—Marked Money Found Here and Also in the Possession of Compromising Police.

Police Commissioner Mathot, a short stout man, no hat, ran down Madison street from 300, opposite Hudson street, at a quarter of twelve yesterday afternoon, "being shot" at the top of his voice and chasing a hatless policeman. Assistant District Attorney Murphy and two plain clothes men, all the Police Headquarters reporters but one, and 150 miscellaneous citizens followed. The chase went by the Becker street subway station, northward side, down the stairs and across the northernmost corner of the station, where Mr. Mathot caught him, sitting on the edge of the platform and about to jump.

"I saved him from the third rail," said Mr. Mathot.

The policeman was John J. Bryan of the Charles street station, with a gold star on his sleeve as token of honorable mention. The reporter who did not chase him was Charles R. Price of the "Daily News." Both are looked up at Police Headquarters on charges of attempted bribery and extortion.

The arrests were engineered by Mr. Mathot and Mr. Murphy on information furnished by Patrolman James A. Donoghue of the West 10th street station.

Commissioner Mathot says for some time Price has been giving out that he had private interviews with both Mathot and Commissioner Bingham and that he could "make or break" a cop; further, that Price has received money more than once from patrolmen on the understanding that he would use his influence in their behalf. It was impossible, however, according to Mr. Mathot, to get evidence against Price.

Several days ago Mr. Mathot said Donoghue came to see him. Donoghue said his captain had sent him. Donoghue, who is on the list for promotion, said Price had approached him and said that he had influence with both Mathot and Bingham, and for \$200 would see that Donoghue was made a roundsman. Price also said, according to Donoghue, that it would be dangerous for a reporter to see either Mathot or Commissioner Bingham, but that Donoghue could deliver the money to Patrolman Bryan and whatever Bryan agreed to would be "all right for him." Donoghue reported the proposition to his captain and was sent down to Police Headquarters.

Mr. Mathot immediately got into communication with the District Attorney and it was arranged that Donoghue should be used as a stool pigeon. Yesterday forenoon Mr. Mathot took a four fifty-dollar bill from his own bank deposit, marked them in the presence of Mr. Murphy and of Commissioner Bingham and turned them over to Donoghue.

The patrolman had arranged with Price to hand over the money at 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the cigar store on the northeast corner of Houston and Mulberry streets, two doors from Police Headquarters. On account of the police parade, Price and Bryan said, there would be no body around Headquarters at that time in the afternoon.

At 3 o'clock Donoghue was at the designated corner with the money. Mathot and Murphy were in the room of Deputy Commissioner Waldo on the first floor of Headquarters looking out of the window. Bryan came along and Donoghue says he gave Bryan the \$200. Then Bryan crossed the street to the headquarters office of the "Daily News" and disappeared up the stairs.

Mr. Mathot says he could see the men through the windows, and saw Bryan reach into his pocket and hand something to Price. Without waiting to see more, Mathot and Murphy, accompanied by Inspector Smith and a couple of plain clothes men beat it out of Headquarters and across the street. Mr. Mathot was the first to break into Price's room. As he went through the door, he says, he saw Price throw something under a covered table which stood by a bed. At the same instant Bryan bolted out the door and, according to those who took part in the fray, didn't touch a step in the flight of stairs which leads to the ground floor. Inspector Smith stayed behind to take care of Price and to look under the table, where he found two of the marked \$50 bills.

Just as Mathot caught Bryan in the subway station he saw Bryan throw something out onto the track, which proved later to be another of the marked \$50 bills. Where the fourth went, to deponents was not. Mr. Mathot puts it down to profit and loss. Thinking that the policeman was going to jump on the track and make for Astor place a subway porter hurried over from the southbound side and put a red light on the north local track.

The commissioner and his prisoner made their way through the crowd and back to Headquarters, where Inspector Smith had already arrived with Price.

Price told Mathot, according to the commissioner, that he didn't have the money on him.

"No, but it was under your bed, and it was my marked money, too," replied the commissioner. Bryan made a similar protest.

"Did either Price or Bryan make any confession?" the commissioner was asked after he and Mr. Murphy had been closed with the prisoner.

Mr. Mathot put his finger on his lips and refused to tell. His aim and that of the District Attorney is to attempt to find the "man higher up," if there is one, whose support has enabled Price to swing his bluff. He has not been allowed to enter Commissioner Bingham's office since February or Mr. Mathot's for some time.

Price and Bryan will be arraigned in the Tombs police court this morning.

MARKED MONEY ON THIS ONE, TOO.

While the police parade was on yesterday Police Officer William H. Sheehan of the East 104th street station, who has been on the force for seventeen years, was arrested on a charge of compounding a felony in consenting to conceal evidence against a negro who is indicted for murder in the first degree. Detectives from the District

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Just how long ago the tap was made could not be ascertained as there is no record in the Water Supply Department of any permit to lay the outfall main, but judging by the condition of the pipe and the fact that no one could be found in the neighborhood who remembered when it was put down it is believed to have been taken from the city at the rate of 150,000 gallons a day at least for a great many years. The Citizens' company sells to the city about 4,000,000 gallons a day at the rate of \$65 a million gallons, and it is estimated that the municipality has been buying back a good share of its own water.

As soon as the connection was uncovered and the Commissioner had made sure that the Citizens' main was not a dead end he gave orders to have the entire territory of the city and the mains of several private companies lie close together. The next test will be made to-morrow in Putnam avenue, where the situation is the same as at Stanhope street and St. Nicholas avenue.

Brooklyn uses 130,000,000 gallons a day, and it has long been felt that the indicated consumption was much larger than the citizens actually got. The department officials knew they got that much water at the Ridgewood Reservoir, but they had no way of telling how much of it was stolen after it got into the distributing system. Commissioner Ellison says he is now going to do it in his power to probe the matter. Among the other private corporations that have mains contiguous to the city's supply pipes are the Flatbush Water Works and the Bowers Bay, the Woodhaven and the Bay Ridge companies.

Commissioner Ellison said yesterday that just before and immediately after he took office he was told that a careful investigation of the water bureau would lead to some startling revelations, particularly in Brooklyn and Queens.

"I was also given to understand," he continued, "that a careful investigation of the conditions existing between the private water companies and the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens would lead to the unearthing of conditions that would startle the public."

"It will be borne in mind that Brooklyn, Long Island City and the Ridgewood Heights section purchase large quantities of water from these water companies," such as the Citizens' Water Supply Company of New York, the Jamaica Water Company, the Queens Water Company, the Blythebourne Water Company and others. Some of these companies are now seeking renewals of their contracts with the city, and I have such contracts under consideration."

"About two months ago the results of a relief which began to appear to me to relieve them from the refusal or neglect of the Citizens' Water Supply Company to furnish them with sufficient water. Petitions stating the unbearable conditions then existing and signed by hundreds of residents were presented to me. Large delegations of women visited the department and impressed upon me the hardships to which they were subjected. They stated that they were unable to get water at almost all times, even on the first floors of many of the buildings. They further stated that they had been compelled at times to melt ice to get water, even for drinking purposes. Certainly that which they presented to me evidenced a very serious condition of affairs in the neighborhood from which these complaints came. Local organizations were also formed. They sent committees presenting resolutions that had been adopted and in other ways presented to me facts that showed a condition that required immediate relief."

"The troubles of these people led me to an investigation of their situation, and I found that they obtained their water from the Citizens' Water Supply Company, and were charged for it at a frontage rate—that is, they paid so much per frontage, whether they actually received the water or not."

"I also found that the Citizens' Water Supply Company furnished Long Island City with approximately 4,000,000 gallons a day at that time, and that this company was paid at the rate of \$65 per million gallons for the water thus furnished Long Island City."

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"I was also given to understand," he continued, "that a careful investigation of the conditions existing between the private water companies and the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens would lead to the unearthing of conditions that would startle the public."

"It will be borne in mind that Brooklyn, Long Island City and the Ridgewood Heights section purchase large quantities of water from these water companies," such as the Citizens' Water Supply Company of New York, the Jamaica Water Company, the Queens Water Company, the Blythebourne Water Company and others. Some of these companies are now seeking renewals of their contracts with the city, and I have such contracts under consideration."

"About two months ago the results of a relief which began to appear to me to relieve them from the refusal or neglect of the Citizens' Water Supply Company to furnish them with sufficient water. Petitions stating the unbearable conditions then existing and signed by hundreds of residents were presented to me. Large delegations of women visited the department and impressed upon me the hardships to which they were subjected. They stated that they were unable to get water at almost all times, even on the first floors of many of the buildings. They further stated that they had been compelled at times to melt ice to get water, even for drinking purposes. Certainly that which they presented to me evidenced a very serious condition of affairs in the neighborhood from which these complaints came. Local organizations were also formed. They sent committees presenting resolutions that had been adopted and in other ways presented to me facts that showed a condition that required immediate relief."

"The troubles of these people led me to an investigation of their situation, and I found that they obtained their water from the Citizens' Water Supply Company, and were charged for it at a frontage rate—that is, they paid so much per frontage, whether they actually received the water or not."

"I also found that the Citizens' Water Supply Company furnished Long Island City with approximately 4,000,000 gallons a day at that time, and that this company was paid at the rate of \$65 per million gallons for the water thus furnished Long Island City."

"I appealed to the Citizens' company to increase its pressure at Ridgewood Heights, so as to relieve the sufferings of the residents of that district, even if the company had to furnish us with less water at Long Island City. My requests in this respect met with no substantial response. The water pressure remained virtually as it was before at Ridgewood Heights, and the supply furnished Long Island City at \$65 per million gallons was continued. The advantage of this plan of action to the Citizens' Supply Company is apparent. It charged for water at a frontage rate at a set price per annum, whether it actually supplied the water or not, while it was to its advantage to increase the pressure upon the main supplying Long Island City, where it was paid

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## WATER SCANDAL UNearthed.

CITY MAIN TAPPED BY PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY CONCERN.

150,000 Gallons a Day Diverted Into Pipes Owned by the Company of Which Ford Meyer Is President—Wholesale Theft Suspected to Commissioner Ellison.

## WATER SCAND